

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 25, with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to FIG. 1, an apparatus 20 for providing Instant Messaging (IM) in a wireless communication system is illustrated according to an embodiment of the present invention. The apparatus 20 for providing IM in a wireless communication system is comprised of an IM data storage device 22 that is configured to at least store IM contact data associated with an IM client. The apparatus 20 for providing IM in a wireless communication system is also comprised of an IM server 24 configured to access the IM data storage device 22 and retrieve the IM contact data associated with the IM client. The apparatus 20 for providing IM in a wireless communication system is further comprised of an IM access portal 26 in operable communication with the IM server 24 and configured to access an IM access portal storage device 28 that is configured to store IM contact data associated with the IM client and transmitted to a wireless device 29 used by the IM client during a prior wireless connection with the IM access portal 26. The IM access portal 26 is further configured to perform a comparison of IM contact data and transmit difference IM contact data to the wireless device 29 that is produced with the comparison of the IM contact data retrieved from the IM data storage device 22 ~~44~~ and the IM contact data stored in the IM access portal storage device 28. While the wireless device 29 illustrated in FIG. 1 is a cellular telephone, any number of wireless communication devices can be used according to the present invention. For example, a mobile radio, two-way pager and wireless Personal Data Assistant (PDA) can be used according to the present invention.